When Beust's career in Saxony was terminated by the war of 1866 he accepted a flattering invitation to enter the Austrian service. His first task was to carry to Paris an appeal from Francis Joseph, for help. Napoleon HI was in the middle of one of his periods of intense physical pain, and he could only mutter " Je ne suis pas pret a la guerre." " I do not ask you to fight," replied Beust, " but merely to send troops to the frontier. Then you would be accepted as a mediator. If you do not, perhaps you yourself will have a war with Prussia in five or six years, and I promise you that in that case all Germany will march against you." The prophecy, was fulfilled, and Austria stood aloof in 1870 as France had stood aloof in 1866. Beust assures his readers that Austria had no commitments to France and -no thought of intervention, not on account of Russian threats if she did, but because Francis Joseph accepted the new order in Central Europe, and Beust realised that all Germany would fight. The common belief that he was and always remained anti-Prussian and dreamed of revenge for the events of 1866 is dismissed as a legend. He was eager to work for the internal consolidation of the Hapsburg Empire, believing that the bitter lesson of Sadowa could be turned to good account. The first task was to make the Ausgleich with Hungary, and he quotes Andrassy's compliment: " Without you it would not have been completed." The second was to modernise the institutions of the state. Beust, like Kaunitz and Metternich, was appointed Chancellor, or President of the Ministry, as well as Foreign Minister, so great was the Emperor's confidence; but in domestic affairs his power was limited. The two chief obstacles to the removal of hampering abuses, in his opinion, were reactionary Clericalism and the feudal aristocracy. " I will never be the mouthpiece of a

purely despotic government," he announced,- and he kept his word. He succeeded in abolishing the Concordat and he advised the adoption of the Constitution of 1867. Yet he was detested by the aristocracy and Society as a revolutionist, and in 1871 his enemies brought him down. Though a loyal servant of Francis Joseph, to whom he was sincerely attached, he retained his German sympathies, and he wished to increase the power of the German element in Austria as a bridge between Vienna and Berlin. The detailed narrative ends id 1871, but there are some pleasant snapshots of the years in England, where he had served as a young man and of which he spoke affectionately as his second home.